As regards the Rabi season 2002-03, it is too early to make an assessment because the sowings have not been completed so far.

Horticulture development in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir

2363. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to encourage horticulture in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir and to train the farmers in the trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount proposed to be allocated for each of the above States during 2002-03?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture — Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plan in all States and Union Territories including Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. Under this scheme assistance is provided to the State Governments for taking up various activities including development of horticulture. This scheme provides flexibility to the State Governments to prioritize their activities as per their felt needs and requirement. Under this scheme assistance is provided for taking up activities like supply of good quality planting material through nurseries, and Tissue Culture Units, assistance for area expansion, productivity improvement programmes, training on latest technologies creation of infrastructure for disease forecasting, plant health clinics, Tissue/leaf analysis, mechanization and on-farm handling of produce.

(c) During 2002-03, an amount of Rs. 16.00 crores each has been allocated for Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir under the Macro Management Scheme.

Prices of pulses

2364. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the production of pulses due to the drought situation this monsoon; and

(b) if so, the corrective steps taken to keep prices of pulses down?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. According to the First Advance Estimates of agricultural production for 2002-03 the production of pulses during Kharif 2002 is expected to be less than the estimated production during Kharif 2001.

(b) Efforts are being made to increase the production of pulses in the country through the implementation of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP). Besides this, to meet the demand supply gap the import of pulses is allowed under Open General License (OGL) to keep the prices of pulses at a reasonable level.

Procurement of copra by NAFED

2365. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NAFED had started procurement of copra this season, on the new MSP;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. NAFED has undertaken procurement of copra under PSS in Andaman and Nicobar, Lakshadweep and Goa as per following details:—

State	Qty. (MTs)
A&N	4722
Lakshadwep	1172
Goa	315
TOTAL	6209

(c) Question does not arise.

NOC from NAFED for export of foodgrains

†2366. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) to which countries foodgrains have been exported by NAFED

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.